Please amend Claims 1, 4, and 25-30, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

image pickup means;

encoding means for encoding a moving image signal output from the image pickup means using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding means extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding means being arranged to encode the encoding image signals of a plurality of pictures included between [[the]] adjacent extracted pictures, [[each]] which are extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording means for recording the encoded image signal generated by the encoding means on a recording medium;

transmission means for transmitting the encoded image signal generated by the encoding

means to an external apparatus while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal; and

control means for controlling the encoding means and the recording means in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal by the transmission means, ~~to~~ change a number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent extracted pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ so that the encoding means generates the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means further controls the encoding means to reduce the number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent extracted pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ so that the encoding means generates the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures even if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claims 5-24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

image pickup means;

encoding means for encoding a moving image signal output from the image pickup means

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using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image

signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an

inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding means extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n

being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the

extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded

picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding means ~~being arranged to encode the~~ <u>encoding</u> image signals of a

plurality of pictures included between [[the]] adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures<u>,</u> [[each]] <u>which are</u>

extracted for every n pictures<u>,</u> by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding

method;

     recording means for recording the encoded image signal generated by the encoding means

on a recording medium;

     transmission means for transmitting the encoded image signal generated by the encoding

means to an external apparatus while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal;

and

     control means for controlling the encoding means and the recording means in accordance

with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded

image signal by the transmission means, ~~so as~~ to change a rate of the intra-encoded pictures

interposed between the adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while~~

~~generating~~ <u>so that the encoding means generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures

<u>even</u> if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

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Claim 26 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the control means further controls the encoding means to reduce the rate of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ <u>so that the encoding means generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures <u>even</u> if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 27 (currently amended): An image pickup method comprising steps of:

generating a moving image signal;

encoding the moving image signal using an intra-encoding method and an inter-encoding method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding step including extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

the encoding step ~~being arranged to encode the~~ <u>including encoding</u> image signals of a plurality of pictures included between [[the]] adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures, [[each]] <u>which are</u> extracted for every n pictures, by one of the intra-encoding method and the inter-encoding method;

recording the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

transmitting the encoded image signal to an external apparatus while maintaining an encoded state of the encoded image signal; and

controlling the encoding step and the recording step in accordance with an instruction to start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal in the transmission step, ~~so as~~ to change a number of intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ <u>so that the encoding step generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures <u>even</u> if [[when]] the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method according to claim 27, wherein the control step includes controlling the encoding step to reduce the number of the intra-encoded pictures interposed between the adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ <u>so that the encoding step generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures <u>even</u> if the instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An image pickup method comprising steps of:

generating a moving image signal;

encoding the moving image signal using an intra-encoded method and an inter-encoded method to generate an encoded image signal including an intra-encoded picture encoded by the intra-encoding method and an inter-encoded picture encoded by the inter-encoding method,

the encoding [[means]] <u>step including</u> extracting an image signal of a picture for every n pictures (n being an integer greater than or equal to two) from the moving image signal and encoding the extracted image signal by the intra-encoding method, thereby generating the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures, and

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the encoding ~~means being arranged to encode the~~ <u>step including encoding</u> image

signals of a plurality of pictures included between [[the]] adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures<u>,</u> [[each]]

<u>which are</u> extracted for every n pictures<u>,</u> by one of the intra-encoding method and the

inter-encoding method;

      recording the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

      transmitting the encoded image signal to an external apparatus while maintaining an

encoded state of the encoded image signal; and

      controlling the encoding step and the recording step in accordance with an instruction to

start a recording operation, issued during transmission of the encoded image signal in the

transmission step, ~~so as~~ to change a rate of intra-encoded pictures interposed between the

adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ <u>so that the</u>

<u>encoding step generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures <u>even</u> if in a picture group

without changing a rate of frames included in [[a]] <u>the</u> picture group [[when]] <u>and even if</u> the

instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method according to claim 29, wherein the control step

includes controlling the encoding step to reduce the rate of the intra-encoded pictures interposed

between the adjacent <u>extracted</u> pictures ~~each extracted for every n pictures while generating~~ <u>so</u>

<u>that the encoding step generates</u> the intra-encoded picture for every n pictures <u>even</u> if the

instruction to start the recording operation is issued.

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